

SECTION A. Project Title: Environmental Surveillance, Education, and Research Program – Wastren Advantage, Inc.**SECTION B. Project Description**

Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI) proposes to continue the Environmental Surveillance, Education, and Research (ESER) program. Specific activities to be carried out may include, but are not limited to actions in the nature of sampling, collection, and characterization of air, water, soil, flora and fauna as well as measurement of ambient radiation levels. WAI will provide ecological support to DOE-ID for land and wildlife management issues. WAI will provide NEPA assistance through onsite surveys of proposed surface-disturbing activities on the INL Site and possible impacts on vegetation, wildlife, critical habitat, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species. The ESER staff will also conduct and manage a wide variety of ecological research on and around the INL Site in cooperation with universities, federal and state agencies, and non-profit organizations.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

Radioactive Material Use – Some activities require use and storage of a radioactive source. The source contains 50 millicuries of Americium 241: It will be housed in a secure and properly identified area/building. A Radiological Control worker will annually inspect the source.

Industrial Waste Generation – Small amounts of solid waste may be generated during research activities. This waste stream may include packaging materials. Waste Generator Services will be contacted and a hazardous waste determination will be performed for all waste generated to determine the appropriate management practices.

Biological Hazards – There is always a threat of biological hazards when working in the field. These hazards include: West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Rabies Virus, and all other reactions caused by incidences with carriers.

Soil Disturbance – Some types of field work require soil core samples (contact cultural resources) or other less invasive soil testing (by hand).

Water/Well Use – Use of water/well is concurrent with the Experimental Field Station.

Work Within a Floodplain – Activities may occur in areas designated as a floodplain. However, activities should not have a negative impact to the floodplain.

Cultural/Historical Resources – Some activities have the potential to disturb the ground surface. Personnel will keep vehicles on existing roads and trails at all times to prevent any secondary impacts to archeological sites. The INL Site Contractor Cultural Resources Management Office will be contacted before any ground disturbance takes place.

Interaction with Wildlife/Habitat – Interaction with wildlife will be kept to a minimum. Data from animals captured will be collected in the field and the animals released in the same location of capture. Any activity that disturbs habitat will be assessed and measures taken to reduce the invasion of non-native/exotic vegetation. If animal collection is to take place, species will be collected under required State and Federal permits.

SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not “connected” nor “related” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis.) Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments.

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Justification: The activity consists of performing site characterization and environmental monitoring with an emphasis on ecological sampling and collection and measurement of ambient radiation levels.

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 02/09/2016